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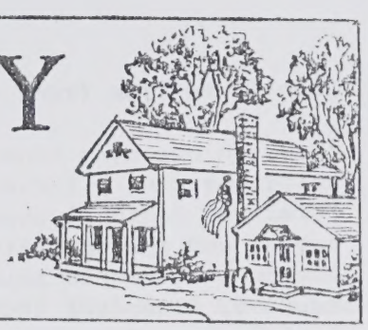
MONTEREY NEWS



February, 1976

O U R T O W N

A Plan for Purchase of the Monterey Store

The Monterey general store is for sale, and a group of townspeople have been investigating the possibility of buying it as a community cooperative store. They see this as a way to ensure that the store remain a food store and continue as the kind of center it has been in the community for about two hundred years. In addition, through use of cooperative wholesalers and through involvement of the existing pre-order food co-op, the store could offer prices equal to supermarket prices.

The idea of townspeople buying the store together has grown partly out of people's experience in the present food co-op, and partly out of strong interest in the store throughout the community. The idea has generated a lot of enthusiasm, as well as many questions and cautions. There has been a sense of adventure among people working on it, developing an enterprise that has been tried in other places, but that also grows out of Monterey's special needs and resources. This project depends particularly on the sense of community which has always been one of Monterey's strengths, on the cooperation of summer and winter residents, friends from Otis and New Marlborough, on all the many different people who have a part in the town.

The proposal of the Community Store Committee is that the store would continue to carry its present items, many at lower prices, some still as convenience items, and that in addition the pre-order co-op would carry out weekly distributions in the back room of the store. A board of directors would be elected by members of the co-op and the board would hire and oversee a paid manager. The store would also depend on some volunteer hours from pre-order and other members, to keep the store open its present 67 hours a week.

Purchase of one $10 share would entitle the purchaser to one co-op membership. In a cooperative corporation each member has one vote, regardless of the number of shares owned. Investment in shares will be limited to $100 per member. Investments above that amount will be considered loans, offered in $100 certificates of indebtedness at 6% interest.

The present pre-order co-op, which has been part of the impetus for the idea of purchasing the store, involves 50 families from Monterey and nearby towns, all of whom share the work of ordering together in bulk. Through this shared volunteer work they keep their food costs very close to wholesale prices, saving themselves 25% to 35% off supermarket prices. The co-op has existed for a year, distributing out of the church basement every two weeks and trucking produce, cheese, honey, flour, etc. from Springfield and other wholesale sources. About 20 Western Massachusetts co-ops order together for bigger savings on some items such as canned goods.

This pre-order group would continue as a semi-autonomous group within the store. The back of the store would be remodeled for use by the pre-order co-op. The upstairs apartment would be offered to the manager as partial remuneration for his services.

A financial study, made with the cooperation of Mr. Phoenix in the use of his operating figures, indicates that the purchase and operation of the store as a cooperative is financially feasible. Members of the study committee were Robert Gauthier, Robert Volckhausen, Douglas Lambrose and Charles Niedzinski, all of whom have backgrounds in business management. The committee estimates that it would take $40,000 to obtain a mortgage and cover initial operating expenses. They recommend purchase of the store by the beginning of this summer. An escrow fund has been set up for deposit of people's investments until the goal amount is reached. Investments in the escrow fund will be converted to shares or certificates of indebtedness at the time of incorporation, planned for March. If the store is not purchased as a co-op, the money will be returned.

(continued on next page)

(continued from front page)

Research has also been done regarding structures of other co-op stores in Massachusetts; pricing policies; relationship of the pre-order co-op to the store operation; local and regional suppliers, etc. There is still much work to do in all these areas, and the committee would welcome participation from both year-round and summer residents. People interested in working on the Community Store Committee -- on fund raising, financial study, prices and suppliers, store remodeling, etc. -- can contact Barbara Gauthier, committee chairwoman, 528-1624. Checks for the escrow fund should be made payable to Monterey Community Store and sent to Marion Schneider, treasurer, Community Store Committee, Box 263, Monterey. For more information, contact Barbara Gauthier or write the committee, Box 263.

Town Meeting, February 13

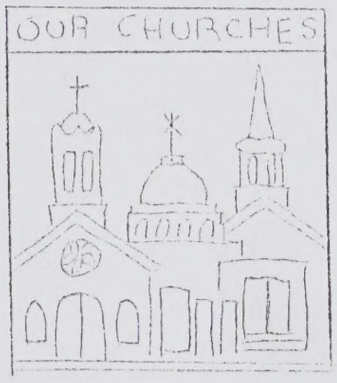
At a sparsely attended Town Meeting on Friday, February 13, the following decisions were made: The sum of $1,500 was transferred from the Machinery Earnings Account for repair of the Highway Department loader. The sum of $10,000 was appropriated from available funds in the Treasury to the Snow and Sand Account. The sums of $2,000 each were appropriated to the Machinery and Tools Account and the Town Garage Account. The Board of Selectmen were authorized to appoint an Inspector of Wires for the Town. This has hitherto been a part of the Building Inspector's job. Eventually this job will be divided into three parts: Building Inspector, Inspector of Wires and Plumbing Inspector.

Representative Sisitsky to Visit Monterey

Representative Alan Sisitsky will be in the Town Offices on Saturday, February 21, at 9:00 a.m., for the purposes of meeting the townspeople and discussing with them any problems they may have. Everyone is welcome.

Community Dinner to be February 25

The next in the very successful of community dinners will be on Wednesday, February 25. Come, and bring your family.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes — Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . . Nancy Loder is continuing to fill in as organist during Mrs. Miner's bout with arthritis.

17/76 Achievement Fund — The church community is midway in the 17/76 Achievement Fund, with a goal of $3,000 to be raised over a three-year period. From reports of the Missions Committee there are high hopes the goal will be reached, and even exceeded.

Hunger Theme During Lent — Dr. Brallier and Mrs. Rose explained to the Parish Council the Lenten preaching emphasis this year. It will pick up and show the relationship of the gospel to the world hunger issue.

Lenten Study Group — For the six weeks of Lent a study group is being planned which will deal with major concerns in following Christ. It is inviting all persons who are considering joining the particular expression of the Church known as the Monterey United Church of Christ. Any person, whether currently a member or not, is invited to participate. The group will be led jointly by Mrs. Rose and Dr. Brallier.

GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

The Parish Council of the Monterey United Church of Christ felt our community would want to respond to the terrible human suffering in Guatemala due to the several earthquakes they have experienced. A committee is searching out the channel that will deliver the most speedy relief. An offering will be received on Sunday, February 22. Any in the community who would like to share in this earthquake relief effort may send checks to the treasurer, Mrs. Nancy Brancazzu, indicating it is for the Guatemala Earthquake Relief.

FEAR OR LOVE

Recently a group of us were remembering the level of commitment that used to characterize some of the persons we had known earlier in our lives. We noted, somewhat sadly, that this same degree of commitment was harder to find today. We recognized, however, that this commitment was based largely on fear. Life must be lived earnestly, carefully, or dread consequences might overtake us.

In the course of the conversation we agreed that the commitment we do see today seems motivated less by fear than by love. It is as though fear has lost the capacity to empower people. Whatever empowerment comes now must come from love. It seems as if we are between periods. Fear no longer is effective, yet we have not learned to trust love as a real force in human affairs. We might describe ourselves as in an awkward age: The old is fading away; the new has not yet taken clear form.

Could it be that much of the impotence of old patterns lies in the inability of fear to motivate life as once it did. In government, church and home fear was a prominent factor in trying to get "good" responses. We did the "good" for fear of what would happen if we didn't. Lament it as we may, the old fear basis is proving itself powerless to cope with the changes occurring within the consciousness of this age. True, there are many last-ditch efforts being made to revive fear -- notably in government circles -- but there is little indication they will succeed. Fear has run its course and it is dying a slow and painful death.

Love operates from an almost totally different dynamic than fear. The truth of it is we are afraid to trust it. We are afraid to make our <u>commitment</u> to love. Fear finds its force in "power over the other." Love finds its force in "power with the other." Fear feeds on separateness and division. Love is nourished on unity and commonality. Slice it any way you will, the two draw out of the personality almost opposite qualities. Fear drives us into our separate little life boats; love finds a way to trust our common destiny.

At its best fear has been a very imperfect schoolmaster. It places the motivation almost entirely outside the person. The only way it can continue to get results is to perpetuate itself. Thus, it must inhibit the deeper, fuller qualities of personality, for fear it will lose its power to get results.

Is there any evidence of a new age in which love is the main source of power? I believe there is. I think it is showing up more clearly in the field of religion than in any other sector of society. One of the reasons for the decline of the Church over the past dozen years or so is the falling apart of the fear motive in religion. It simply was losing all power to make people "do good" through fear of what would happen. All around there were dire predictions about the end of religion, the death of the Church and even the "death of God." Anyone with historical perspective should have known better than to swallow this kind of talk whole. Nevertheless, when evidence of decay shows up all around a person it does become pretty persuasive. Now, with a new resurgence of life appearing in the religious arena, it helps to read the drama a bit more clearly.

The elements of religious renewal going on within and outside the Church have very little to do with the old appeal to fear. It is as though the old had to die away for the new to emerge. Religion is once again manifesting a much more <u>personal</u> note. It is talking the language of <u>relationship</u>. Movements such as the charismatic one and the healing emphasis are built almost entirely around the evidences of <u>love</u> and <u>caring</u>. Appeals to fear are conspicuously absent.

With this there is emerging a new level of commitment. There is evidence that people are truly putting themselves on the line and that there is a new expending of the self without the careful calculation, "What am I going to get out of this?" St. John talked of being perfected in love. Maybe we are seeing evidence of his observation that "Perfect love casts out fear."

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

4-H NEWS

Monterey Roadrunners 4-H Horse Club

Our club is entering the window exhibit contest and some of the club members are making posters for the poster contest. At our February 10 meeting we had a test on the parts of an English saddle and also a test on the different types of bits. Our club is putting on their annual ham dinner again this year. It will be on March 20 in the church basement. Tickets will be on sale soon for this event.

Christine Papp, News Reporter

4-H Camera Club Formed

The Great Barrington Camera Club is the sponsor of the newly formed 4-H Camera Club. John Nichols, president of the Great Barrington Camera Club, will be the Leader and Mrs. John Ryder of Monterey Assistant Leader. Members from Monterey are William Bynack, Kenneth Heath and Shawn Ryder. The club's first meeting was held at Mr. Nichols' home. He made his dark-room available to members. The 4-H'ers developed film, did printing and enlarging.

Meetings are being planned for once a month for interested youth 9 to 19 years of age. For more information call Mr. Nichols at 528-3609 or Mrs. Ryder at 528-2548.

4-H News in General

The 4-H Poster and Window Exhibit will be held in the Monterey Post Office the week of February 22. Boys and girls interested in the Capon Project this year must make out an application which is due in the 4-H Office by April 20. The Monterey Green-thumbs and the Monterey Wooly, Feather, Fur Farmers will have their first meeting of the new year in the middle of March. Election of officers will take place and seeds will be started again for a great gardening year.

GIRL SCOUTS

The Brownie troop under the leadership of Maureen Bradley have been busy with craft projects this winter. With pipe cleaners and drinking straws the girls have created a winter skating scene. Mrs. Bradley has eight girls in her troop.

The Junior Girl Scouts will be holding their annual Cookie Sale during the week of March 12. Delivery date is the first part of May. The girls will be selling six different varieties of cookies, plus Girl Scout tea. The price of the cookies this year is $1.25 a box.

The Juniors have been making valentines for the Nursing Home patients.

All the girls have completed the Sign of the Star and the Sign of the Arrow Badges. The troop received a new member, Kirsten Walentine of Hartsville.

CUB SCOUTS AND WEBELOS

Pack 51 gathered at the Town Hall in Mill River for their monthly pack meeting. The main event of the meeting was the Pinewood Derby. The boys had created race cars from pinewood blocks. Taking first place was Daniel Labrecque, second place went to Robert Sluka, third to Robert Litchfield and fourth to Dennis O'Connor.

Cubmaster Robert Gauthier presented the following badges and pins: Wolf Badge to Dennis O'Connor, one year pins to David Gauthier and Dennis O'Connor, two year pins to Robert Candee, Douglas Champigny and Jon Andrus.

During the month of February the boys will be working on costumes for a skit that will be presented at the annual Blue and Gold Dinner in March.

MONTEREY CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Past meetings have been for business only. A retreat is planned for March.

Lois Ryder
Youth Editor

The Board of Directors held their first quarterly meeting for 1976 on February 7. Dr. Brallier, president of the corporation, presided. Others attending from the neighborhood were Mrs. David Barrett, clerk of the Board, Dr. James Bell, the Rev. Richard Coleman, Robert Donelan, Mrs. John Davis Hatch and Robert Wheeler. Travelling from a distance were Dr. James L. Adams, James Hawks, the Rev. Paul Kennedy, Mrs. Walter Pahnke and the Rev. Hampton Price. The two directors living at the Farm, also present, were Mrs. Sidney McKee and Mrs. Harold Winchester. Kent Smith, Executive Director, and Edward Dunlop, Treasurer, regularly attend these meetings.

The Treasurer's Report for 1975 was presented and studied in depth. The budget proposed for 1976 was adopted. Mr. Smith reported that since March, 1974, there have been no empty guest rooms. A continuing waiting list has made use of each vacancy as it has occurred. The architect's plans for the new guest house have been completed and will be let out for bids from contractors about March 1. It is hoped that work will start early in April. The directors set May 22 as the date for their next meeting.

By mistake the name of Kathie Muller, who joined the staff in December, was omitted from the January News. Kathie comes from Rhinebeck, N.Y. as a volunteer worker. She heard of the Farm through a friend and plans to stay until September, when she will enter Oswego State University. Cynthia Conti, a volunteer service worker with the Church of the Brethren, came this month. Her home is In Flushing, N.Y. where she attended Queens College. Recently Cynthia worked in Europe for the B.V.S. She expects to spend her second service year at Gould Farm.

In winter fewer outdoor jobs are available and groups develop interest in various afternoon and evening activities. About a dozen guests and staff are attending night classes in adult education at Monument Mountain High School. There is swimming at Jug End one afternoon a week and skiing at Otis Ridge. Recently a class in drama started here, coached by Mrs. Sally Kingsley of Sheffield. There are also classes in drawing, writing, ceramics, batik, needlework and physical exercises. These workshops, besides the necessary chores at the barn, on the woodpile, snow shoveling and sand sprinkling, in the kitchen and with general housework, give everyone a chance to keep busy.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE # 291

Monterey Grange observed its annual Youth Night on January 21. Due to a severe storm the attendance wasn't as large as usual but the youth on hand did a bang-up job. Conducting the meeting was Richard Hardisty, Acting Master, who with Lucy Ann Wuori from Umpachene Grange, as Lecturer, presented an enjoyable program. On February 4 it was "Dan Cupid" Night, with a truth and consequences program by members and visitors which proved to be great fun. On March 3 our annual Booster Night, open to the public, will be observed. An interesting program is planned; let's fill the hall.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

NEW BOOKS AT THE MONTEREY LIBRARY

Templeton, Charles - Kidnapping of the President
Seifert, Elizabeth - Four Doctors, Four Wives
Simenon, Georges - House on Quai Notre Dame
Holt, Victoria - Lord of the Far Island
Llewellyn, Richard - Green, Green My Valley Now
Woiwode, Larry - Beyond the Bedroom Wall
McMurtry, Larry - Terms of Endearment
Higgins, Jack - The Eagle Has Landed
Kantor, MacKinlay - Valley Forge
MacLean, Alistair - Circus
Coffman, Virginia - Hyde Place
Judson, William - Cold River
MacKintosh, May - Highland Fling
Wambaugh, Joseph - The Choirboys
Price, Reynolds - Surface of Earth
Eden, Dorothy - Time of the Dragon
Potok, Chaim - In the Beginning

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has a phone: 528-3795. If you find that you can't get to the library but have a book that's due, please renew it by phone. Are you wondering whether a particular book is available at the library? A phone call might confirm it before you make the trip. In short, the phone is there for your convenience and we hope that it will encourage better use of the library.

(LIBRARY NEWS -- continued)

New Reference Books: Rand McNally Road Atlas, Consumer Complaint Guide, Encyclopedia of Sports, Time-Life Family Legal Guide, Cloudburst, A Handbook of Rural Skills and Technology, and Oxford Companion to the Theater are but a few of the new reference books acquired under a Federal Grant sponsored by the Western Regional Public Library System. In selecting titles we tried to recall questions that at one time or another we had not been able to answer. Come in and browse. There's surely something that will be of interest to you.

Recordings: Under another grant the library was given about 40 new LP records. Children teen-agers and adults all should find some great listening. Records, like books, are loaned for two-week periods.

Anne Marie Makuc
Chairman

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

This month we are exceedingly grateful to the following contributors: Dr. Gerald Bauman, Mr. William Bell, Mr. & Mrs. Jan Buchar, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Buffum, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Callahan, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dunlop, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Koivisto, Mrs. Lawrence Lippert, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Messenger, Mr. Elmer E. Morris, Mr. & Mrs. Charles O'Connor, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Race, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Rydberg, Rev. & Mrs. Royal Shepard, Mr. & Mrs. T. Folger Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kyle Wing, Mrs. Thomas Yohe, Mr. & Mrs. William Zad.

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